

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for operating the blower of an automotive air conditioning system on a predetermined timed schedule following operation of the air conditioning system to remove condensate from the interior of the air conditioning system and thus to thwart attendant odors, the blower having a positive terminal and a negative terminal, said apparatus comprising:

a first relay coupled to the positive terminal of the blower, said first relay, when activated, electrically connecting the positive terminal of the blower to the positive terminal of the automotive battery;

a second relay coupled to the negative terminal of the blower, said second relay, when activated, electrically connecting the negative terminal of the blower to ground; and

a logic circuit operatively coupled to said first and second relays, said logic circuit being configured to activate said first relay and said second relay on a predetermined time schedule when the automotive air conditioning system is turned off after having been operated to remove moisture from within the air conditioning system and thereby to eliminate an atmosphere therein that is conducive to the growth of micro-organisms that cause undesirable odor.

2-37. (Cancelled)

38.(New) A method of drying condensate from a heat exchanger of a vehicle's air conditioning system to thwart the propagation of fungus and bacteria and its attendant odor, said method comprising:

- (a) determining that an engine of the vehicle has been shut off; and
- (b) operating a blower of the vehicle's air conditioning system on a predetermined time schedule, wherein the blower is alternately switched on and then off a predetermined number of times to draw air through the air conditioning system intermittently for drying condensate from interior surfaces thereof, wherein operating the blower includes bypassing a blower control.

39.(New) The method of claim 38, further comprising determining that the vehicle's air conditioning system was in operation before the vehicle's engine had been shut off.

40.(New) The method of claim 38, and wherein step (b) includes shutting off the blower for a predetermined time period and turning on the blower at the end of the predetermined time period.

41.(New) The method of claim 38, wherein step (b) includes connecting a positive terminal of the blower motor to a positive terminal of a battery of the vehicle and connecting a negative terminal of the blower motor to ground.

42.(New) The method of claim 38 and wherein step (a) includes monitoring a voltage level of a battery of the vehicle and determining that the engine has been shut off when

the monitored voltage falls below a predetermined threshold after having been above the threshold.

43.(New) The method of claim 38, wherein the blower is operated at its maximum speed.

44.(New) A method of eliminating condensate from a vehicle's air conditioning system to thwart the propagation of odor-causing organisms, said method comprising:

- (a) determining that an engine of the vehicle has been shut off; and
- (b) activating a blower of the vehicle's air conditioning system such that the blower is switched on and then off a predetermined number of time to reduce condensate from the vehicle's air conditioning system, wherein activating the blower includes bypassing a blower accessory switch.

45.(New) The method of claim 44, further comprising operating the blower at maximum speed during activating and reactivating of the blower.

46.(New) The method of claim 44, further comprising determining that the vehicle's air conditioning system had been operating before the vehicle's engine was shut off.

47.(New) The method of claim 44, wherein determining that the vehicle's air conditioning system had been operating comprises sensing ambient temperature and concluding

that the air conditioning system was in operation if the sensed ambient temperature is above a predetermined threshold..

48.(New) The method of claim 44, wherein activating the blower comprises bypassing a blower control.

49.(New) The method of claim 44, wherein activating the blower comprises connecting a positive terminal of the blower to a source of positive voltage and connecting a negative terminal of the blower to ground.

50.(New) The method of claim 44 and wherein determining that the vehicle's engine had been shut off comprises monitoring a voltage level of a battery of the vehicle and determining that the engine has been shut off when the monitored voltage falls below a predetermined threshold after having been above the threshold.

51.(New) A method for eliminating condensate from a vehicle's air conditioning system comprising:

activating a blower of the vehicle's air conditioning system after an engine of the vehicle has been shut off, wherein the blower is operated at maximum speed for a predetermined amount of time;

deactivating the blower for predetermined amount of time; and

reactivating the blower, wherein the blower is operated at maximum speed for a predetermined amount of time during reactivating.

52.(New) The method of claim 51, wherein a blower control is bypassed during activating and reactivating of the blower.

53.(New) The method of claim 51, wherein an accessory switch of the blower is bypassed during activating and reactivating of the blower.

54.(New) The method of claim 51, further comprising determining that the vehicle's engine has been shut off.

55.(New) The method of claim 54, wherein determining that the vehicle's engine had been shut off comprises monitoring a voltage level of a battery of the vehicle and determining that the engine has been shut off when the monitored voltage falls below a predetermined threshold after having been above the threshold.

56.(New) The method of claim 51, further comprising determining that the vehicle's air conditioning system had been operated before the vehicle's engine was shut off.

57.(New) The method of claim 56, wherein determining that the vehicle's air conditioning system had been operating comprises sensing ambient temperature and concluding that the air conditioning system was in operation if the sensed ambient temperature is above a predetermined threshold.

58.(New) The method of claim 51, wherein activating and deactivating the blower comprises connecting a positive terminal of the blower to a source of positive voltage and connecting a negative terminal of the blower to ground.

59.(New) A method of eliminating condensate from a vehicle's air conditioning system comprising:

determining that an engine of the vehicle has been shut off;

determining that the vehicle's air conditioning system had been operating before the engine was shut off;

activating a blower of the vehicle's air conditioning system for a predetermined time period to eliminate condensate from the vehicle's air conditioning system, wherein a blower control and an accessory switch of the blower is bypassed;

deactivating the blower for a predetermined time period; and

reactivating the blower for a predetermined time period.

60.(New) The method of claim 59, wherein the blower is operated at maximum speed during activating and reactivating of the blower.

61.(New) The method of claim 59, wherein activating and deactivating the blower comprises connecting a positive terminal of the blower to a source of positive voltage and connecting a negative terminal of the blower to ground.

62.(New) The method of claim 59, wherein deactivating and reactivating of the blower is repeated for a predetermined cycle.

63.(New) The method of claim 59, wherein determining that the vehicle's engine had been shut off comprises monitoring a voltage level of a battery of the vehicle and determining that the engine has been shut off when the monitored voltage falls below a predetermined threshold after having been above the threshold.

64.(New) The method of claim 59, wherein determining that the vehicle's air conditioning system had been operating comprises sensing ambient temperature and concluding that the air conditioning system was in operation if the sensed ambient temperature is above a predetermined threshold.